

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LAGOS 03583 311036Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 /042 W

-----010555Z 088279 /13

R 311003Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 207

INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 3583

FOR AF/W

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, PFOR, NI

SUBJECT: VISITORS TO NIGERIA

1. AT REQUEST OF MR. O. ADESOLA, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO MEA PERMANENT SECRETARY, PLCOUNS CALLED ON HIM MARCH 25. SUBJECT OF MEETING TURNED OUT TO BE GROWING NUMBER OF OFFICIAL AMERICAN VISITORS AND DIFFICULTIES MEA IS EXPERIENCING IN PROCESSING THEM.

2. ACCORDING TO ADESOLA, THE PROBLEM REVOLVES AROUND THE TIME REQUIRED FOR MEA TO OBTAIN NECESSARY AGREEMENT FROM THOSE FMG MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES INVOLVED IN A PARTICULAR VISIT. THE SPECIAL ASPECTS OF SOME VISITS COMPLICATE THE SITUATION. FOR EXAMPLE, THE RECENT VISIT OF THE COMPUTER DATA INFORMATION TEAM INVOLVED MEA'S SEEKING AND OBTAINING CLEARANCE FROM NIGERIAN CUSTOMS FOR THE TEMPORARY IMPORT OF THE TEAM'S EQUIPMENT. THE CLEARANCE PROCEDURE ITSELF IS GREATLY HAMPERED BY POOR COMMUNICATIONS IN LAGOS. ADESOLA CONCLUDED HIS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS WITH COMMENT THAT IN VIEW OF THESE DIFFICULTIES IT WOULD BE BETTER IF

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LAGOS 03583 311036Z

EMBASSY COULD AWAIT FINAL APPROVAL FROM MEA BEFORE ALLOWING VISITORS TO TRAVEL TO NIGERIA.

3. POLCOUNS PROTESTED THAT SUCH A PROCEDURE WOULD BE UNWORKABLE GIVEN SHORT NOTICE THAT EMBASSY OFTEN RECEIVES AND THE AMOUNT OF UNCERTAINTY IT WOULD ENTAIL FOR TRAVELERS. IN ACCORD WITH MEA'S EARLIER INSTRUCTIONS, EMBASSY ATTEMPTS TO

PROVIDE FMG TWO WEEKS ADVANCE NOTICE OF EACH VISIT. ADESOLA COUNTERED THAT LONGER LEAD TIME WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO HAVING NIGERIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON REFER ALL VISA APPLICATIONS TO LAGOS. TO A SUGGESTION THAT THE EMBASSY DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE MINISTRIES INVOLVED RATHER THAN GOING THROUGH MEA, ADESOLA REPLIED WITH FIRM NEGATIVE. HE ADDED THAT EMBASSY COMPLIANCE WITH FMG RULES WAS CONSIDERED EXEMPLARY IN CONTRAST TO SOME OF OUR "SOCIALIST COLLEAGUES" WHO HAVE BEEN "SURREPTITIOUSLY" TRAVELING AROUND COUNTRY.

4. INCONCLUSIVE UPSHOT OF MEETING IS THAT FOR MOMENT EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE MEA WITH AS MUCH LEAD TIME FOR VISITS AS POSSIBLE. EXCEPTIONS TO TWO WEEK ADVANCE NOTIFICATION WILL BE HELD TO MINIMUM. (LATER SAME DAY, POLCOUNS HAD OCCASION TO CALL ADESOLA WITH THE NEWS THAT LOS TEAM WAS ARRIVING FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH FMG ON ONLY NINE-DAY NOTICE. HE UNDERTOOK TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY CLEARANCES.)

5. COMMENT: WE MAY FIND FMG WILL DECLINE TO RECEIVE OFFICIAL VISITORS PARTICULARLY THOSE WHOSE PROGRAMS REQUIRE EXTENSIVE ADVANCE PREPARATION (NUMEROUS APPOINTMENTS, IMPORT OF EQUIPMENT, ETC.) UNLESS WE PROVIDE LONGER ADVANCE NOTIFICATION TO MEA. ALL WASHINGTON AGENCIES SHOULD BE INFORMED OF THE POTENTIAL PROBLEM WE ARE FACING AND REQUESTED TO PROVIDE THE EMBASSY WITH A MINIMUM THREE WEEKS NOTICE OF PLANNED TRAVEL. EXCEPTIONS TO TWO WEEKS ADVANCE NOTIFICATION RULE WILL HAVE TO BE HELD TO ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. WE WISH EMPHASIZE THAT MEA IS NOT RAISING OBJECTIONS TO VISITS THEMSELVES; ADESOLA STRESSED FMG'S DESIRE TO CONTINUE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LAGOS 03583 311036Z

THEM AS PART OF THE CURRENT U.S. NIGERIAN DIALOGUE. PROBLEM APPEARS TO RELATE SIMPLY TO FMG'S INTERNAL CO-ORDINATION DIFFICULTIES. CROSBY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, VISITS, OFFICIAL VISAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LAGOS03583
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770111-0837
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977034/aaaaacno.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: faafd4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3047771
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISITORS TO NIGERIA
TAGS: OTRA, PFOR, NI, (ADESOLA, O)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/faafd4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009